WASHINGTON, **DC** â€" Congressman Joe Courtney today released the following statement after the U.S. Navy awarded \$1.2 billion for the construction of the 14th Virginia-class submarine to General Dynamics Electric Boat:

"Today's announcement is another tremendous step forward in the long-fought effort to build two submarines per year," said Congressman Courtney. "The talented workforce at Electric Boat has routinely demonstrated a unique ability to complete superlative work ahead of schedule and under budget. That exceptional record today produced a tangible reward that will ripple across eastern Connecticut and our entire region."

In 2007 during his first term, Congressman Courtney secured \$588 million for the initial advanced procurement investment needed to increase the build rate to two submarines a year. Additionally, when the 2011 continuing resolution debate was stalled, Courtney led the bipartisan effort to protect funding for the second submarine from cuts.